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**UNITED STATES ANNOUNCES EXTRADITION OF
CHINESE ECSTASY KINGPIN FROM CANADA TO NEW YORK**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") in New York, ANTHONY PLACIDO, the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") in New York, and RAYMOND KELLY, Commissioner of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), announced today the extradition of ZE WAI WONG, the leader of a Chinese and Vietnamese Ecstasy-trafficking ring that manufactured more than \$25 million worth of Ecstasy pills in Canada and then smuggled the drugs across the border to distribution cells throughout the United States for resale. The successful extradition announced today was the result of close cooperation between American and Canadian law enforcement authorities.

According to indictments previously unsealed in Manhattan federal court, ZE WAI WONG's Ecstasy-trafficking operations spanned North America from clandestine manufacturing laboratories

in Toronto, Ontario, to distribution cells in New York, Texas, California, Iowa, Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana, and ultimately to streets and night clubs throughout the United States where the drugs were resold to users. Once the Ecstasy was distributed in the United States, WONG arranged for other members of his criminal organization to collect and launder millions of dollars of narcotics proceeds back to Canada, it was charged.

The indictments previously charged that ZE WAI WONG's criminal organization used violence and the threat of violence to further its narcotics-trafficking and money-laundering crimes. In the event that customers owed Ecstasy-related debts to WONG's organization, the indictments charged that members of the organization threatened the customers with violence and, in some instances, carried out violence against them.

If convicted, ZE WAI WONG faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on the narcotics-trafficking charges. WONG faces an additional maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on the money-laundering charges.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the FBI, the DEA, the NYPD, and Canadian authorities.

Assistant United States Attorneys BOYD M. JOHNSON III and DAVID BERARDINELLI are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the indictments are merely

accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and
until proven guilty.

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